

The charms of the Sierra Nevada Mountains draw outdoor enthusiasts each season. West coast golfers pack their smart cars and beach wagons to soak in the sun and breathe the ponderosa-scented air around Lake Tahoe, which offers an ideal mix of terrific weather and exciting alpine experiences. Whether you are on the Nevada or California side of the range, the high elevation elation is sensory overload for Chicagoland golfers looking for adventure on the course.

Your High Sierra journey can include as much seat time as you please, especially with great golf spread across the region. There are over 44 golf courses within a scenic hour and a half drive of Reno. While it is unlikely that even the most ambitious traveler can play all the courses that are spread between Reno, Nevada, and Lake Tahoe, our play list includes our favorite hits that span the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Edgewood Tahoe (www.edgewoodtahoe.com), the most popular resort in the area, hosts the annual American Century Championship, which is the best celebrity golf

tournament in the country. The 7,555-yard George Fazio course highlights the magical panorama that is South Tahoe. Lake Tahoe, America's largest alpine lake, is visible on 14 holes, while the snow-capped peaks rise above the tree lines throughout your round. In North Tahoe, on the Nevada side, Incline Village Golf Courses offers two great tracks on the north shore of the lake. The Championship and Mountain courses (www.golfincline.com) utilize every foot of elevation to present a blend of beauty and challenge for all players. On the lake's south side is Genoa Ranch Golf Club and Resort (www.genoalakes.com), which is on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. The Lakes and Ranch courses are scenic and challenging. Our favorite course is the Ranch, but both must be played during your sunshine sabbatical.

Our favorite town on this mountain range is Truckee. In addition to a cozy mountaintop setting with top-notch food and entertainment, Truckee delivers a fantastic variety of lodging options, from historic inns and cabins to ultra-chic boutique hotels. Old Greenwood ([\[oldgreenwoodgolf.com\]\(http://oldgreenwoodgolf.com\)\) is a Jack Nicklaus-designed course that many regard as one of his best layouts for recreational golfers. Better players will need plenty of grit to score on the Four Pine tees \(140 slope\); however, if you play it forward on the Two Pine tees \(128 slope\) at 6,457 yards, then you will have a platform to experience success and an enjoyable round in the High Sierras. Schaffer's Mill Golf & Lake Club \(\[www.schaffersmill.com\]\(http://www.schaffersmill.com\)\), is one of the area's finest private courses, but does offer visitors options to play. Most Mondays are open for guest play, and the club has a reciprocal program with other private clubs. Schaffer's Mill is worth the extra effort to secure a tee time.](http://www.</p></div><div data-bbox=)

On the country club side of the Sierra Nevada range, Montreux Golf & Country Club (www.montreuxgolf.com) and Clear Creek Tahoe Golf Club (www.clearcreektahoe.com) are family-centered clubs that are primarily second clubs for most members. Montreux is just over 15 minutes from the Reno Tahoe International Airport and is a four-season club in the desert highlands. The premier

attraction at Montreux is their Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course. At Clear Creek Tahoe, the masterful Coore & Crenshaw golf course is the centerpiece of a club that *Forbes* regarded as one of the country's best values for a private club membership. The course at Clear Creek is a throwback to golf's golden age of design. Coore & Crenshaw were as mindful toward maintaining the integrity of the site and they were to creating a golf course that will sustain a player's interest for repeated play.

Reno's The Club at Arrowcreek (theclubatarrowcreek.com) has two courses, both with spectacular views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Reno skyline.

From the exciting nightlife in Reno to the quiet pine-scented breezes around Lake Tahoe, an elevated experience awaits your foursome. While already one of the most popular destinations for people on the left coast, more and more Chicagoans are discovering Tahoe each year. For more information, visit www.mytahoevacation.com to begin planning your trip.

Sunshine Daydreams in the High Sierras

